

SR-12 Project Introduction

The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration are commencing with an environmental assessment for SR-12, between Escalante and Boulder, to identify and propose road improvements. The entire SR-12 corridor has been the subject of several previous studies conducted by UDOT and the Five County Association of Governments. Previous studies have determined that due to bicycle and pedestrian traffic, narrow or lack of shoulders, and the need for passing areas / pull outs, improvements to SR-12 need to be evaluated, but that any improvements should preserve the corridor's character. This environmental assessment will focus on the specific needs and challenges of a 28-mile section of SR-12 between milepost 60 and milepost 88. This environmental assessment will be prepared over the next three years.



SR-12 is the only principal through highway linking US-89 with SR-24. It is also one of the most stunning and scenic byways in America. SR-12 is the gateway to such sites as Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef National Parks; the Glen Canyon Recreation Area; Kodachrome, Escalante, and Anasazi State Parks; the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument; and the Dixie National Forest.

The environmental assessment will take into consideration prior studies, existing and future conditions, stakeholder and agency input, and the environmental context to determine the environmental impacts of proposed alternatives. The steps involved in an environmental assessment are: 1) Develop Purpose and Need statement to establish the project intent, 2) Develop possible alternatives, including a no-build preserving the corridor's character, and 3) Analyze the impacts of each alternative, identifying possible mitigation options.

Project Goals:

- Balance the needs of the different modes of transportation on SR-12
- Provide for safety needs while preserving human and natural resources
- Define solutions that are consistent with the natural environment

Project Overview and Schedule

The environmental assessment has been divided into two phases to provide flexibility in the decision-making process.

Phase I

During this phase, data for the project area will be collected from existing documents, plans, studies, databases, resource agencies and the public. Once collected, the information will be consolidated and used to develop a Purpose and Need statement that determines the most important and critical areas and features within the project parameters. This phase is estimated to be completed in the summer of 2005.

Phase II

This phase includes a detailed alternative analysis (alternatives include proposed safety options/improvements for SR-12), alternative evaluations, including those found in previous studies, and alternative selection. Impacts for each alternative will then be studied and documented in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Phase II is estimated to be completed in 2007.



Contact Us

For more information, please visit our web site at www.udot.utah.gov/sr-12 or contact the SR-12 Team at:

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